

JET Airman delivers faith to FOB Wright

By Capt. Tony Wickman
Kunar Provincial Reconstruction
Team Public Affairs

KUNAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan -- On a forward operating base dominated by Army and Navy people, there is one who stands apart. His name is Chaplain (Capt.) Eric Boyer, and he is a U.S. Air Force Airman assigned to FOB Wright.

For the majority of his deployment tour, he was the only Airman on the FOB. That was until a pair of Air Force public affairs people joined the Kunar Provincial Reconstruction Team at the beginning of September.

"I was the only Airman on the FOB for the longest time," Boyer said. "But, I was accepted to the team when the Soldiers and Sailors saw I was willing to do what they were doing, whether it was doing PT, vehicle checks or going out to the observation posts."

The chaplain is a Baptist minister deployed from the 12th Flying Training Wing at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, and a native of Knoxville, Tenn. He is assigned to the Combined Joint Task Force-82 Chaplain Corps and was sent forward to FOB Wright.

"My role is to provide spiritual care and religious support for everyone on FOB Wright — Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Ma-



FORWARD OPERATING BASE WRIGHT, Afghanistan -- Air Force Chaplain (Capt.) Eric Boyer (center) leads a non-denominational service for deployed members recently. This service is one of several ministry opportunities that Chaplain Boyer participates in and offers to all military members who are stationed at or pass through the forward operating base. The chaplain is deployed from the 12th Flying Training Wing at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, and a native of Knoxville, Tenn. He is assigned to the Combined Joint Task Force-82 chaplain corps. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Brian Boisvert)

rines, civilians and contractors," Boyer said. "Specifically, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Matthew Goff, CJTF-82 command chaplain, put a chaplain here with the forward surgical team because ministry is so important when dealing with the sick and injured. So, by default I also became the FOB chaplain."

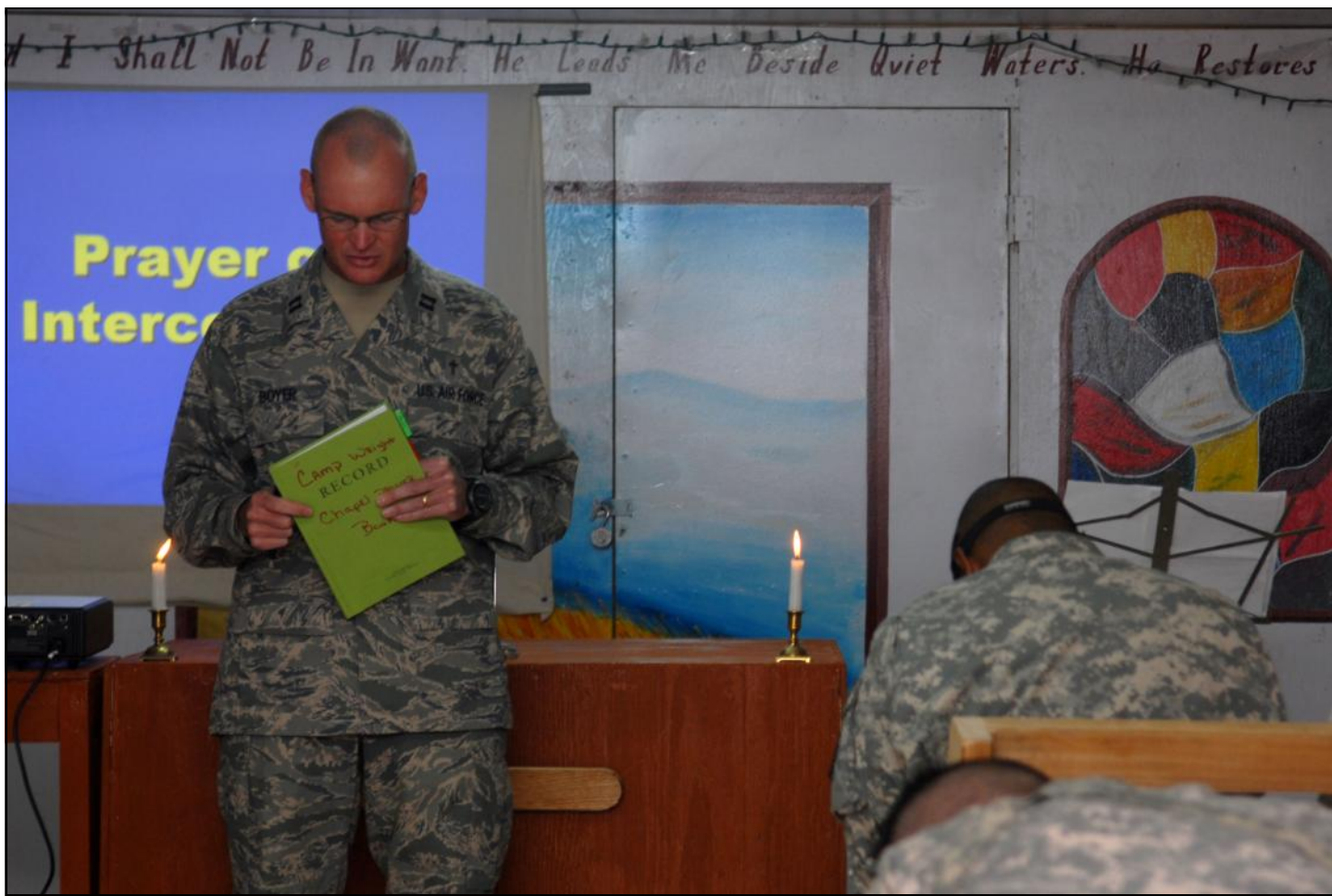
According to Boyer, who arrived in May and is scheduled to rotate home soon, the deployment has been a fulfilling experience.

It's very rewarding, perhaps

the most rewarding, yet challenging, experience of my career. One of the bonds you establish is the common experiences of hardship," Boyer said. "When people are injured or hurt, they most need and desire spiritual encouragement. That is why it is important for me to be here."

The chaplain provides three services per week — a prayer

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FORWARD OPERATING BASE WRIGHT, Afghanistan -- Air Force Chaplain (Capt.) Eric Boyer (left) leads a non-denominational service for deployed members at Camp Wright, Afghanistan recently. The chaplain is deployed from the 12th Flying Training Wing at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, and a native of Knoxville, Tenn. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Brian Boisvert)

FAITH

service, a bible study and a Sunday service. Boyer calls his service on the FOB a "ministry of presence."

"I go around and visit people in their work areas. I make the rounds and check on the physical, emotional and spiritual health of the people on the FOB," Boyer said. "Also, we don't have any PX or BX, so the chaplain gets a lot of hygiene and food packages that I can

share with the people on Camp Wright. It's another part of my service to help people here."

Boyer said being on the FOB and going on missions with the maneuver elements is both a duty and a calling.

"This is where the people are who need spiritual care," Boyer said. "I also try to be a safe place for our troops because they have a lot to deal with. For some it's spiritual, for others it's a person they can share their burden with. I'm a safe

place for them to let down their guard."

According to Goff, Boyer has been "the epitome of the selfless servant."

"He has done everything we've asked him to do and more in providing religious support and encouragement not only to the personnel on FOB Wright, but also to other troop locations throughout the area," Goff said. "He demonstrates the very heart of what every chaplain should be."



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Bagram Airmen partner with local Afghans for burial ceremony

By Tech. Sgt. John Jung
455th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- Recently there was a solemn burial outside a mosque in the town that borders Bagram Airfield. A small group of mourners and the local mullah were in attendance as prayers were said for the deceased. It was not an event of major significance except to those who attended and those who had a hand in making it happen.

Remains from six separate skin and bone segments were returned to the local community for burial. As is the Afghan local Muslim custom, the remains were buried the same day they were received and before sunset at the mosque.

"Sometimes Afghans are brought in for improvised explosive device injuries and have skin and bone segments removed in the course of their medical treatment. The hospital keeps these in case the person needs to have them grafted back at a later point in time," said Senior Airman Timothy McCallum, 455th Expeditionary Medical Squadron.

Airman McCallum, a medical laboratory technician, deployed from the U.S. Air Force Academy, played a major role in the ceremony taking place by conducting extensive research for several days to identify specific skin and bone segments belonging to local Afghans so they could be returned for proper burial.

"Trying to identify who a specific skin or bone segment



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - An Afghan man (blurred in this photo for his protection) transports the remains of skin and bone segments of six local Afghans back to the community where he lives. The remains were buried at a mosque in the town that surrounds Bagram Airfield. (Photo illustration by Tech. Sgt. John Jung)

belongs to is often difficult, because they usually come in as trauma patients and it gets hectic and sometimes they aren't identified clearly," said Airman McCallum.

The Craig Joint Theater Hospital here treats any injured person, regardless of nationality or whether they are friend or foe, as long as they are brought to the hospital because of injuries caused by combat. Like any other medical facility, the hospital keeps skin or bone segment for a specific amount of time before they are either used as grafts or they are disposed of.

"After identifying the samples as belonging to local Afghans, Airman McCallum came to me wanting to know if there was something better that could be done with the remains - If maybe there was some more

spiritual way to have them used other than to be disposed of," said Chaplain (Capt.) Christopher Underwood, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, who is assigned as the chaplain for the Craig Joint Theater Hospital and Task Force Med/East.

"Returning the remains to the local Afghans is a simple gesture of kindness and respect," said Chaplain Underwood, who is deployed from Schriever Air Force Base, Colo. "I have a good working relationship with the local Afghans who work as interpreters and asked if they knew of a way to help return these remains back with the respect and dignity they deserved."

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BURIAL

Fortunately, the interpreters did know of some men who work in the hospital and live in the town outside of Bagram Airfield. In coordination with the two Airmen, they were able to arrange for the men to accept the remains, transport them from the hospital and have them buried at a local mosque.

"I just saw one of the men who accepted the bone samples the other day," said Airman McCallum. "He seemed really happy to have been able to help return the samples and help in the proper burial."

The burial was not an event of major significance except to those who attended and two Airmen who had a hand in making it happen. This small act by two concerned Airmen shows the dedication Americans have in helping two different cultures understand that kindness and respect is universal.

Editor's Note: Specific details were intentionally omitted for safety and security reasons.





HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
OBSERVANCE

DATE: 10 OCT 09

TIME: 1830-2000L

WHERE: FOUR CORNERS MWR
CLAMSHELL

WHY: TO OBSERVE, CELEBRATE,
AND EDUCATE HOW
HISPANICS/LATINOS HAVE
INFLUENCED AND
CONTRIBUTED TO AMERICAN
CULTURE



Air Force Equal Opportunity

"Zero Tolerance"

ACCOUNTABILITY

Slurs

Discrimination

Sexual Harassment

Disparaging Comments

Race, Sex, Religious Jokes

E-mailing, Texting Offensive Material

Favoritism on "Protected" Basis

Derogatory Displays

Graffiti

PROFESSIONALISM

WINGMAN

LEADERSHIP

Support Diversity

EO is Everyone's Business

Celebration of Eid ul-Fitr at Bagram Airfield



Eid ul-Fitr is celebrated on the first day of Shaw'waal, at the completion of Ramadan. Shaw'waal is the 10th month of the Islamic calendar. The Eid-ul-Fitr is a very joyous day; it is a true Thanksgiving Day for the believing men and women. On this day Muslims show their real joy for the health, strength and the opportunities of life, which Allah has given to them to fulfill their obligation of fasting and other good deeds during the blessed month of Ramadan.



Celebration of Eid ul-Fitr at Bagram Airfield



Photos by Senior Airman Felicia Juenke

NEWS BRIEFS

IMMUNIZATIONS: Are your immunizations up to date? Active duty members are required to stay current on all immunizations during their deployment. Report to your nearest medical treatment facility to check your status and get vaccinated. For questions, contact Task Force Medical Public Health, 431-4426.

NEWCOMERS INPROCESSING: All Air Force members are required to inprocess with PERSCO. The inprocessing will start your combat pay entitlements. If you have been in the AOR for at least 30 days and you are not receiving combat pay, visit Finance in the crow's nest tower on Camp Cunningham. If you know for a fact that you did not inprocess with PERSCO, please visit PERSCO located in Bldg. 700 near the passenger terminal. Call 431-2070/4409 for more information.

PAPERLESS HOMETOWN NEWS RELEASE: Just arrived here at Bagram? Got promoted? Hit a milestone in your career? Tell your family and friends at home by sending a paperless Hometown News Release available on the Bagram Air Field public Web site at this link: <https://hnforms.dmasa.dma.mil/lserver/455AEWBAGRAM>. Just fill out the form and hit submit. It's that easy.

COMBAT O: Combat Orientation is Wednesday at 0100Z/0530L at the MWR Clamshell (Near the Four Corners). Uniform is Air Force PT uniform. This is a mandatory briefing for all Air Force personnel assigned to Bagram Airfield. Accountability is tracked and will be forwarded to the first sergeants.

Did You Know:

1 in 33 men and 1 in 6 women

will be sexually assaulted

in their *lifetime*?

Every 150 seconds someone is

assaulted somewhere in America?

80% of victims *know* their assailant?

Always take a Wingman

If you are interested in becoming a

Victim Advocate, contact

Captain Tabitha Stump

DSN: 318-431-4060

tabitha.stump@bgab.centaf.af.mil

EVERYONE

~~Employees:~~



Must wash their hands
before returning to work...

